

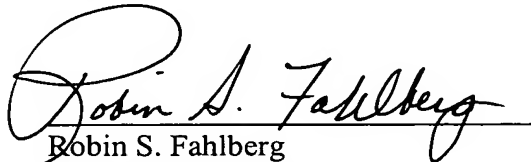
REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were presented for examination December 11, 2001. In an Official Action August 11, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,736,939 to Corcoran, objected to claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 11-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and allowed claims 17-19 and 21-26. Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 11-19 and 20-26 remain pending with amendments.

Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10 and 20 have been canceled. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw his objection to claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 11-16 as they have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is in condition for allowance and allowance of the application at issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robin S. Fahlberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

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